

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
February 10, 2014**

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Elizabeth Chung	Sue Ramsburg	Randy McClement, Mayor	Irene Packer- Halsey	Rae Ann Butler
Ernell Graham	Carolyn True	Pat Rosensteel		Don Cilla
David Gray, Comm		Virginia Skelley		Carol Krimm
Ann Holiday				Steve Bruns
Louise Lynch				
Katie Rhinehart				
Dan Yeeles				

- I. **Call to Order** – Louise Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Louise welcomed all attendees.
- III. **Action on the Agenda/Public Comment** – Louise stated that anyone who is a guest and would like to comment on the agenda is able to do so during the Public Comment section of the meeting. The public can attend the meeting but cannot participate during the meeting. This Commission will follow the guidelines of the State Open Meeting Acts.

- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting were approved with no revisions. All were in favor.
- V. **Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray stated that the court hearing for the CCRC/MAL was well attended. A final decision has not been made. There is a lot of activity in regard to the potential development in the Monrovia area. There will be three hearings for public comment. The BoCC is meeting less frequently these days.

Louise sent a letter to each BoCC member informing them of the continuation of RaeAnn in an ex-officio capacity on the CoA. This letter was a retraction from a former letter requesting their approval to allow RaeAnn to maintain a non-voting status on the CoA. The current by-laws allow her to stay on as a non-voting member for up to one year to encourage continuity between Chairpersons. This letter was sent by postal mail and she has not gotten a reply from any BoCC member.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Randy McClement was not able to attend today's meeting due to budget meetings.

- VI. **Mission Moment – Melinda Lohman, Caregiver Program Coordinator** – Mindy was unable to attend today's meeting due to illness. Next month's Mission Moment will be presented by a representative of the TTY system.
- VII. **Discussion on the need for Committee Members – Executive and Nominations Committees, Louise Lynch** – There continues to be a need for more CoA members. Two resignation letters were recently received from Hazel LeCoste and William Moseley. Don Cilla has sent a letter of interest to Joyce Grossnickle. Katie Rhinehart has volunteered to work on the Nominations Committee, but there is still a need for additional members for the Executive Committee. There is also a need for a liaison for the United Seniors of Maryland and for the Adult Public Disabled Review board. Louise distributed a sign-up sheet around the table for those interested in any of these positions.

Discussion regarding developing questions on Senior Issues for upcoming Candidate Forums and how to present, Louise Lynch – There was some discussion at last month's meeting about developing senior issue questions to present to any candidates for elected offices. A volunteer is needed to develop the questions and then ask the questions at the local forums. The volunteer will need to find out when and where the forums will be held. The local government will be going through a significant change with this upcoming election. It is vital that all candidates are aware of senior

issues and that the public is knowledgeable of each candidate's position on these issues. A goal would be to have three to six questions ready to ask each candidate. There was a suggestion to use email to discuss possible questions. Some suggested questions are: What is their senior platform? How do they plan to help the underserved areas of the county? How would they fund it?

Discussion regarding DoA/CoA working on Needs Assessment Recommendations, Louise Lynch – There was a suggestion that the County implement a task force which would bring together all parts of the county to address these recommendations. This task force would include the business community, the healthcare community, and other related agencies. Volunteers could be a great asset to the community, however there is a need for a volunteer coordinator in order for this proposal to be efficient. Carol Krimm will contact Josh Bokee, the Chairperson for the Chamber of Commerce. There is an associated financial loss to business when seniors are struggling in the community. Family caregivers lose hours of work due to the time invested in caring for their senior family members.

Discussion regarding DoA budget request, expected short falls in service, budget appeals request, how the CoA can best support the appeal, Louise Lynch – The Dept of Aging has had consistent budget cuts for the previous five years. This is of great concern to the member of this Commission. The Department has been asked to investigate alternative funding sources such as additional fee for service and/or public/private partnerships. The State is also encouraging local DoAs to become less dependent on government funds. There may be an increase in means testing especially in the Caregiver program. The Waiver program has already become a fee for service program. There is no funding for mental health services for seniors at this time. There was much discussion on the lack of funding for services which will only continue to grow as the aging population expands.

There is an admitted lack of data which shows the number of senior needs in Frederick County. There is no effective process in place which would capture the pertinent numbers. There are volunteers who are willing to assist in data collection. Carolyn has contacted Hood College to see if assistance would be available through their Gerontology Program, but this would not be an option due to the broadness of the need. RaeAnn has been in contact with a professor at University of Maryland. She will contact her again to see what availability may be possible there. Sometimes money is an issue when soliciting for assistance from colleges/universities.

Carolyn will be submitting two budget appeal requests. The two positions she will be asking for are a case manager to assist in the Senior Care Program and a volunteer coordinator for the Department which will allow staff to work on tasks other than managing volunteers. The Commission will advocate for these positions to be approved. The Department will be submitting a letter of intent to Volunteer Maryland for an AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator.

Discussion of Current Strategic Plan and Update, Louise Lynch

– Some of the goals on this Strategic Plan were achieved. The Needs Assessment was a major goal accomplished. There was also an addition of minority members to the Commission in the last year. This Commission still needs to come up with a new Strategic plan for the future. There was discussion about having some future meetings televised from Winchester Hall. It was suggested that the May meeting be held there since it is Older Americans Month. Carolyn will contact Joyce to schedule the room for May.

Discussion on the Annual Report to the BoCC, Louise Lynch –

An Annual Report has not been presented to the BoCC for a few years. There will be more discussion on this topic at next month's meeting.

VIII.

State CoA, Louise Lynch - Nothing new to report. The statewide summit will be held in Hagerstown Community College in September this year. They will be meeting this week to discuss the program.

Partners in Care, Ernell Graham – This group met earlier today. Ernell gave some statics from the previous quarters. The agency has done a presentation at the Frederick County Civic Association. They were present at the St. Catherine Drexel Health fair, and the DoA "Adapt to the Future" fair. The next meeting will be in April.

USM, Ginny Skelley – The USM Rally was cancelled due to inclement weather. There is still a need for a liaison for this group as Ginny is no longer able to attend the meetings.

Health Coalition Summit, Louise Lynch – A Health Care Coalition was held at Frederick Community College on February 27th. The goal was to identify issues that need improvement. Some issues identified were care for the poor and elderly, transportation to medical appointment, housing, and affordable dental care.

Director, Carolyn True – Carolyn distributed a report which indicates the previous months programs and their related numbers. Carolyn will do another presentation of the Needs Assessment to the

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BoCC. The meeting will be on March 6 and it will be a public hearing.

The Frederick Senior Center was utilized as a warming shelter during the recent inclement weather and localized power outages. Citizens were here on Wednesday during the day and Thursday evening and overnight.

IX. Announcements –

- X. Public Comment–** Steve Bruns spoke of recent events at CCRC and Montevue. There was a recent quarantine due to an unidentified virus. Steve states there continues to be a loss of profit at these facilities.

Carol Krimm stated that Transit and other providers are losing a lot of money on dialysis patients across the state. This needs to be worked on at a state level.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

March 10 2014, Commission on Aging, 1:00 at Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Ave, Frederick, MD,

March 27, 2014, CoA Executive Committee meeting, 10:00 at Frederick County Dept of Aging